

REPORT OF NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 18th December 1886.

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Nil.

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The case of Ainuddeen ... ib.
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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
ASSAMESE.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Assam Vilásini"	Sibsagar ...	.....
2	"Assam News"	Ditto ...	450	
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
3	"Ahammadi"	Tangail, Mymensingh..	.....
4	"Kasipore Nibási"	Kasipore, Burrisal ...	.....
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
5	"Purva Darpan"	Chittagong ...	700	
6	"Silchar"	Silchar, Assam ...	.....	6th December 1886.
<i>Weekly.</i>				
7	"Ananda Bazar Patriká"	Calcutta ...	700	13th ditto.
8	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto ...	102	10th ditto.
9	"Arya Pratibhá"	Halishahar ...	.....
10	"Bangabási"	Calcutta ...	20,000	11th ditto.
11	"Bhāratbási"	Ditto ...	3,000	4th ditto.
12	"Bhārat Mihir"	Ditto ...	2,500	
13	"Burdwān Sanjivani"	Burdwan ...	302	
14	"Chāruvārtā"	Sherepore, Mymensingh	500	13th ditto.
15	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca ...	450	
16	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	825	10th ditto.
17	"Garib"	Dacca ...	.....	8th ditto.
18	"Grambási"	Uluberia ...	.....	15th ditto.
19	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rajshahye...	200	8th ditto.
20	"Murshidābād Patriká"	Berhampore ...	508	
21	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Ditto ...	.....
22	"Nava Medini"	Midnapore ...	.....
23	"Navavibhākar Sādhāranī"	Calcutta ...	1,000	13th ditto.
24	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet ...	450	27th November 1886.
25	"Prajā Bandhu"	Chandernagore ...	995	
26	"Pratikār"	Berhampore ...	600	
27	"Pūrva Bangabási"	Noakholly ...	.....
28	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kakinia, Rungpore ...	205	9th December 1886.
29	"Sahachar"	Calcutta ...	500	
30	"Samaya"	Ditto ...	2,350	
31	"Sanjivani"	Ditto ...	4,000	11th ditto.
32	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong ...	800	10th ditto.
33	"Sāraswat Patra"	Dacca ...	400	
34	"Som Prakāsh"	Changripottā, 24-Perghs.	1,000	13th ditto.
35	"Srimanta Saudagār"	Calcutta ...	.....
36	"Sulabha Samāchār and Kusadaha"	Ditto ...	3,000	10th ditto.
37	"Surabhi and Patākā"	Ditto ...	700	9th ditto.
<i>Daily.</i>				
38	"Dainik"	Calcutta ...	7,000	12th to 14th November 1886.
39	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Ditto ...	200	11th to 15th ditto.
40	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	300	13th to 16th ditto.
41	"Samachār Chandrikā"	Ditto ...	625	
42	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto ...	500	
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
43	"Dacca Gazette"	Dacca ...	.....	13th December 1886.
HINDI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
44	"Kshatriya Pratika"	Patna ...	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
45	"Behar Bandhu"	Bankipore ...	.....
46	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta ...	1,500	9th ditto.
47	"Sar Sudhānidhi"	Ditto ...	500	13th ditto.
48	"Uchit Baktā"	Ditto ...	4,500	4th ditto.
49	"Hindī Samāchār"	Bhagulpore ...	1,000	
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
50	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Calcutta ...	250	10th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
51	"Gauhur"	Calcutta ...	196	
52	"Sharaf-ul-Akhbar"	Behar ...	150	
53	"Al Punch"	Bankipore ...	.....
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
54	"Akhbar-i-darusaltanat"	Calcutta ...	340	
<i>Daily.</i>				
55	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta ...	212	8th and 10th to 14th Dec. 1886.
URIYA.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
56	"Taraka and Subhāvartā"	Cuttack ...	.....
57	"Shikṣābandhu"	Ditto ...	.....
58	"Pradip"	Ditto ...	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
59	"Utkal Dīpikā"	Cuttack ...	200	27th November 1886.
60	"Balasore Samvad Vāhika"	Balasore ...	205	
61	"Sebaka"	Cuttack ...	200	1st December 1886.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Bangabási*, of the 11th December, says that, either to frighten Russia or to make a permanent abode on the coast of the Pacific Ocean, the English planted their flag at Port Hamilton last year. Nothing daunted at this, Russia expressed her intention to occupy Port Lajeroock, which belongs to China. Alarmed at this, China urged that the English should evacuate Port Hamilton. The English tried to hush up the matter altogether. But from the tone of English newspapers it now appears that England is going to cede Port Hamilton to China for fear of Russia. If England shows so much cowardice as to give Port Hamilton to China, she will lower herself before China and Japan. But England is now in great danger, and has no other alternative left.

BANGABASI,
Dec. 11th, 1886.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Bháratbási*, of the 4th December, says that oppression is the only resource of the mofussil police. The subordinate officers produce innocent persons as criminals when ordered by their superiors to apprehend murderers or dacoits. At the time of trial the guilt of these supposed criminals cannot be proved. Consequently they are acquitted by the jury. The Lieutenant-Governor and the Inspector-General of Police have expressed dissatisfaction with the High Court for its acquitting persons sent up for trial as murderers by the police. But the remarks of the Lieutenant-Governor or of the Inspector-General of Police will not be able to shake people's faith in the justness of the decisions of the High Court. To praise men who try to ruin innocent persons, and to blame the High Court and jurors for the fault of those men, is a trait which is found in the character of civilians alone. The worthlessness of the police is due to the following causes :— Want of educated men in the department, the fact that the Superintendents and the Assistant Superintendents of Police are Europeans having no knowledge of native languages and native customs and manners, and that they spend their time in amusements, and that their negligence is winked at on account of their relationship with high officials, and the low salary of the constables and the subordinate police officers, which obliges them to take bribes. Corruption is not confined to natives alone. High European officials cannot at times resist the temptation of bribes. This is well known, though it is difficult to prove the fact. It has been proved that European police officers use the carriages, horses, and elephants of zemindars. Everybody knows that the zemindars satisfy police officers in order to keep them under their influence. The writer has often requested Government to reform the Police Department, but Government has done nothing in that direction. From the manner in which Government is acting it does not seem probable that the police will ever be reformed.

BHARATBASI,
Dec. 4th, 1886.

3. The *Som Prakash*, of the 13th December, says that Anglo-Indian officials rule India with that opinion of Bengalis which was entertained by Lord Macaulay.

SOM PRAKASH,
Dec. 13th, 1886.

The police and false criminal cases.

Almost the whole Anglo-Indian community holds Macaulay's views about the character of natives. It is impossible for Bengalis to show manliness when they are oppressed and slighted at every step. If Bengalis try to injure Anglo-Indian interests, they are called venomous animals. If they bear oppression, they are called spiritless beasts. If they neglect to flatter Anglo-Indians, they are called faithless. If they express their feelings, unable to bear oppression, they are called disloyal.

In the police report Government has not blamed the police and the Magistrates, but the High Court for the large number of false criminal cases. The writer cannot understand how the High Court is responsible for this. The Lieutenant-Governor has said that the High Court has issued so many different rulings on section 211 of the Penal Code that people think that they will be able to escape with impunity if they commit the offence defined in that section. It is easy for a good Judge to determine what ruling should apply to what case. If decisions of Munsifs had been set aside in the same proportion as the decisions of Magistrates, the Munsif's Courts would probably have been abolished. The large number of false suits this year is due in some measure to Magistrates. The police is another cause of these false suits. It prepares false suits. When anybody wishes to be avenged upon another, he takes its assistance. When there are affrays, the police remains within doors. But it comes out when the affray is over. The guilty escape by bribing the police. None but the most worthless persons can consent to perform the laborious duties of police officers on small salaries. The false suits are due to these worthless people. There is no hope of the reduction of the number of false suits so long as the Police Department is not reformed. Low people, instead of fearing the police, believe that cases can be got up with its help. Magistrates implicitly believe the police. Had police oppression been so great in England as it is in India, revolutions would have taken place daily. If the control over the police had been half so great in India as in England, Government would not have found it necessary to appoint Magistrates to conduct criminal cases.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

BHARATBASI,
Dec. 4th, 1886

4. The *Bhāratbāsi*, of the 4th December, says that unless the Government of India informs the public why it has released the planter Gibbons from jail,

people will understand that he has been released merely because he is an Englishman, and that it is not in the power of Government to act against the wishes of the Anglo-Indian community. The public has a right to know the ground on which Gibbons, who was convicted by the highest tribunal in the land, has been released from jail.

SURABHI & PATAKA,
Dec. 9th, 1886.

5. The *Surabhi and Patākā*, of the 9th December, referring to the release of Gibbons, says that forgery of coolie agreements is very prevalent in Assam, and

that if the planters are encouraged in this offence, the sufferings of the coolies will know no bounds. Did Lord Dufferin think of the unfortunate coolies when he released Gibbons? When the temporary sufferings of a single Englishman are a more serious matter to officials than the life-long sufferings of thousands of natives, it is vain for natives papers to complain.

SURABHI & PATAKA.

6. The same paper, referring to the order of Sir Comer Petheram that a motion against the decisions of lower courts should be at first made in the District Judge's court, unless there are special reasons for not doing so, says that this arrangement will make the administration of justice in the mofussil less satisfactory, and that it will increase the fear of the people.

SANSODHINI,
Dec. 10th, 1886.

7. The *Sansodhini*, of the 10th December, is sorry to hear that parties to suits have often become great losers by the displeasure of the Munsif of Dakshin

Pattia against some of the muktears and pleaders practising in his Court. He comes to his Court at 10 o'clock, and rejects those suits, the parties to which are not present at the time. The writer requests the Munsif not to do so, because these men have often to come from great distances.

8. The same paper says that Moulvie Serajul Huq, Deputy Magistrate, is very slow. He has been placed in charge of the treasury, and after doing the treasury work, he has scarcely time to take up more than one case. Last Saturday, there were 12 cases in his file. He could not finish even one case till 9 o'clock in the night, and yet he kept the parties and witnesses to all the 12 cases waiting. In one case the witnesses went away after dark, and they were called at 8 o'clock in the night. The writer thinks that the Moulvie should look to the convenience of those who go to his Court.

Serajul Huq, Deputy Magistrate.

SANBODHINI,
Dec. 10th, 1886.

9. The *Bangabasi*, of the 11th December, says that the jury advised the Judge to acquit Mr. Trail even without hearing his defence, and he was acquitted accordingly. If the evidence of the witnesses was so incoherent that the case could not be proceeded with, then how did Mr. Leith, the Presidency Magistrate, send the case to the Sessions, having charged Mr. Trail with hurt and grievous hurt? If Mr. Trail is really innocent, the writer is glad rather than sorry at his release. But the manner in which the case has been conducted from the beginning raises some suspicion.

Mr. Trail's case.

BANGABASI,
Dec. 11th, 1886.

10. In reference to the release of Mr. Gibbons, the same paper says that the Viceroy was so much moved with pity at the sufferings of Mr. Gibbons that he communicated the order by a telegram. The writer is not the least sorry at the release of Mr. Gibbons. If any similar case should arise in future, the natives will be able to petition the Viceroy, citing Mr. Gibbons' case as a precedent. The natives have secured another advantage. Under the present Criminal Procedure Code, the Judge can refer the case to the High Court, though the jury considers an accused person not guilty. The writer knows that the jurors of a certain district have not been able to return verdicts which they thought right for the fear of a Judge bent upon punishing the accused. The native newspapers have always urged Government to change this system of trial by jury, but without success. In the case of Mr. Gibbons, the Anglo-Indians have become aware of the defect of the present jury system, as their own interests have been affected this time. The Anglo-Indian editors are now urging that the verdict of the jury should be final. If the jury system be reformed on this occasion, the native newspapers will gain a great advantage.

Mr. Gibbons case.

BANGABASI.

11. The *Som Prakash*, of the 13th December, says that Gibbons was convicted by the High Court, and the sentence was upheld by the Chief Justice. The writer cannot understand why the High Court all on a sudden recommended the release of Gibbons after this. Why has also Government released Gibbons without the least hesitation? Have not the people a right to know why Gibbons has been released? If he has been released at the request of the officials, and on account of his belonging to the conquering race, the writer must say that there is no difference between the despotic Mussulman government and Lord Dufferin's government. The writer is not sorry at the release of Gibbons. When the whole people of Bengal prayed for the life of young Tinkari Pal, Lord Dufferin did not grant that prayer. But he has readily granted the prayer for the release of Gibbons. Is not this partiality and heartlessness? If dead men can look upon human affairs, the spirit of Tinkari Pal is surely cursing Lord Dufferin's government. Natives are a subject and down-trodden race. Instead of showing mercy to natives, Government often deprives them of the benefit which they may claim under law. The writer would not have been sorry if Government had shown such mercy to natives as it has shown to Gibbons under similar circumstances. It is impossible for any man to resist the influence of the Simla

The release of Gibbons from jail.

SOM PRAKASH,
Dec. 13th, 1886.

officials. Consequently it is no wonder that Lord Dufferin, who covets fame, should do injustice.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
Dec. 13th, 1886.

12. The *Navavibhakar Sadharani*, of the 13th December, says that prisoners acquitted by jurors should not be retried. The Gibbons case has convinced Anglo-Indians that not natives alone, but they also suffer from defects in the law. The writer is glad that Anglo-Indian papers have come to see the mischievousness of the system of trial of prisoners acquitted by the jury. He is sorry that Anglo-Indians do not feel for natives, who are tried after their acquittal by the jury. The writer is glad to hear that Sir Comer Petheram recommended the release of Gibbons from jail, but he is sorry that this is not done in the case of natives. Appeals should be allowed from decisions of a divisional Bench of the High Court to a full Bench.

13. The same paper says that recently Sir Comer Petheram rejected the Standing Counsel's application for the enhancement of the punishment inflicted upon two of the accused in a case, and only granted the application for the re-trial of the accused who had been acquitted. Sir Comer Petheram is not to blame for this re-trial, but the law. The writer approves of the order given by Sir Comer Petheram for making motions against the decisions of lower courts in the appellate courts immediately above them. If those courts do not grant relief, or refuse to grant the motion, or there are good reasons for not making the motion in them, the motion may be made in the High Court. Many District Judges are anxious to remedy the injustice done by lower courts. It is true that the accused have to suffer in some lower courts; but efforts should be made to prevent this. The writer wants to leave no room for abuse of powers by the District Judge's Court, but not to diminish its powers. The District Judges will have to be cautious in deference to public opinion. They are gradually becoming cautious. So much injustice is now nowhere done as formerly. Where injustice is done, it can be remedied by the High Court. Those who object to the order given by Sir Comer Petheram look only to the present and not to the future. The country will not benefit for ever if, instead of providing against abuse of power by the District Judge's courts, motions are made in the High Court at once, without making them at first in those courts.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI.

14. The same paper does not blame Government for showing mercy to Gibbons. The writer only blames Government for not showing mercy to natives under similar circumstances. He will be glad if Government shows similar mercy to natives. The writer does not also blame Sir Comer Petheram for recommending the release of Gibbons. He will blame him only when he refuses to recommend the showing of mercy to a native under similar circumstances.

GRAMBASI,
Dec. 15th, 1886.

15. The *Grambasi*, of the 15th December, does not approve of the release of Mr. Gibbons, whose conviction was confirmed by the High Court. The guilty should be adequately punished, and the innocent should be forgiven.

(d).—Education.

PARIDARSHAK,
Nov 27th, 1886.

16. The *Paridarshak*, of the 27th November, says that the number of primary schools in Assam has increased. The sub-inspectors cannot inspect them once in three months according to the present rule. Mr. Clarke has therefore recommended that the period should be extended to six months. But the writer says that primary education will suffer greatly by such a rule. The *gurus* are very poorly paid, and consequently they do not show much

interest in the improvement of the primary schools. The improvement of these schools completely depends on the frequent visits of the inspectors. The writer urges that those District Boards under which there is a large number of primary schools should increase the number of sub-inspectors.

17. The *Bhāratbāsi*, of the 4th December, agrees in the views expressed

Technical education.

by Mr. Cotton in his recent lecture on technical education. Before technical education

is introduced it should be seen—(1) whether the education will enable those receiving it to earn money ; (2) what class of people will receive that education ; (3) whether there is a good field for the spread of technical education ; and (4) what industries should be first taught. The officials have no definite views about these subjects. They have not yet commenced the work of spreading technical education. Though the Viceroy has declared in the Bombay Arts School that Government will not spread technical education at the expense of high education, it appears from the attitude and statements of officials that it is the intention of Government to divert the course of education from the direction of high education to that of technical education. If Government desires this, the desire will not be fulfilled. It is impossible for Government to check the progress of high education. Government should materially help the progress of technical education. Mere encouragement by words will do no good.

18. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani*, of the 11th December, complains of some irregularities in connection

The Santosh Jahnabi school.

with the management of the Santosh Jahnabi.

school. The Committee is sometimes very hard upon the teaching staff. It has failed to appoint a fifth teacher for the last 18 months.

19. A correspondent of the *Som Prakāsh*, of the 13th December, says

The Jamalpore English school.

that there have been for some years past great disorders in the management of the Jamal-

pore English School. The writer cannot approve of the opinion of Mr. Pope, the Inspector of Schools, that men possessing a knowledge of Urdu should be appointed as teachers of the school. Mr. Pope may easily stop the grant-in-aid paid to the school, for Government is not bound to aid any institution that is not maintained for the benefit of Beharis. It is a great favour on the part of Government to grant aid to the Jamalpore school, almost all the students of which are Bengalis.

20. A correspondent of the *Dainik*, of the 13th December, complains

Results of the Minor Scholarship Examination in Behar.

that, though Mr. Pope publishes the results of the minor scholarship examination for the

Behar Circle in the *Calcutta Gazette*, people in the mofussil cannot know these results. The writer thinks that they should be published in vernacular newspapers like the *Education Gazette*.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

21. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 8th December, says that the number

The numerical superiority of Hindus to Mussulmans in municipalities.

of Hindu members in municipalities is larger than that of Mussulman members. This obstructs the progress of Mussulmans. The

obstacles in the way of the progress of Mussulmans will not be removed so long as equal regard is not paid to the interests of all classes.

22. The *Sulabha Samāchār and Kushdaha*, of the 10th December,

The Upper Circular Road.

complains of the inconvenience that has been caused to the inhabitants of the Upper Circular

Road by the railroad that passes near it. They are constantly in risk of losing their lives, and the bad smell of the refuse carried by the carriages

BHARATBASI,
Dec. 4th, 1886.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 11th, 1886.

SOM PRAKASH,
Dec. 13th, 1886.

DAINIK,
Dec. 13th, 1886.

URDU GUIDE,
Dec. 8th, 1886.

SULABHA SAMACHAR
& KUSHADHA,
Dec. 10th, 1886.

seriously affects their health. The carriages are loaded just in front of the Lily Cottage: as a consequence of this, the members of the family of Keshub Chandra Sen always suffer from disease. The writer says that the place in front of Munshibazar may be used for this purpose, for the number of inhabitants of that place is very small. If Calcutta be amalgamated with the Suburbs, it will be convenient if the railway be made to pass along the Narikeldanga Khal.

BANGABASI,
Dec. 11th, 1886.

23. The *Bangabasi*, of the 11th December, says that both the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor have expressed their opinion in favour of the local self-government system introduced by Lord Ripon. But Sir Rivers Thompson is trying to make provisions for empowering Government to interfere in municipal affairs in case these are mismanaged on account of difference between or indifference of the Commissioners. Now, in this country, Government includes every officer beginning from the petty Deputy Magistrate to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. If a provision like the above be introduced into the municipal law, it will afford pretexts to every Government officer to interfere in the affairs of municipalities. It is very difficult to clearly define what indifference means. If the Municipal Commissioners do not come to salute the Divisional Commissioner he will at once proceed to interfere with the freedom of the municipality, alleging that the Commissioners have become indifferent. Again, if a few Commissioners, either in order to gain the good opinion of the officials, or for any other reason, assume a hostile attitude towards the other Commissioners, the officials will immediately proceed to destroy the power of the municipality. In this country the officials are so powerful that they often trample upon the laws whenever it serves their purposes. What will be the consequence if they be empowered by law to exercise their authority over municipalities? In England defects in law cannot so much affect the people because they are very powerful; but in this country such defects are sure to cause ruin to the people, for here the powers of the officials are unlimited. It would have been well if Sir Rivers Thompson had not instituted any comparison between the municipalities of England and those of this country. In England the officials cannot unlawfully exercise their powers. The President of the Local Board is under the control of Parliament, and the Board itself is subject to the people. In this country there is no municipality in which six-sixteenths of the members have not been nominated by Government. The Divisional Commissioner can exercise unlimited powers over the municipalities. In England the town councils are vested with all the powers. In Scotland the ratepayers are supreme in municipal affairs. Even the poor Irish are more fortunate than Bengalis in this matter.

It is natural that the community in which the number of educated and competent men, the largest should enjoy the greatest influence in the Municipal Boards. Those who will try to act in opposition to this natural law are sure to get into trouble. If Government tries to increase the influence of the Anglo-Indians in the Calcutta Municipality, it is sure in the end to get into trouble. The administration will not be completely satisfactory unless the powers of the Municipal Commissioners are left unrestricted.

SOM PRAKASH
Dec. 13th, 1886.

24. The *Som Prakash*, of the 13th December, says that Government has learned from the management of municipalities by natives that they are fit for self-government. Lord Dufferin has himself admitted that the condition of municipalities is daily improving under native management. As the writer is pleased with the improvement of municipalities, he is also grieved at the despotism of some municipalities. Expenditure upon the reception of the Lieutenant-Governor by the Dacca Municipality has brought disgrace upon

it. Many are agitating about wasteful expenditure of the South Barrackpore Municipality. The cost of litigation in some municipalities is so large that the whole of the municipal fund is wasted in litigation. While money is thus wasted people have to suffer great inconvenience from foul smell and bad roads, and patients die for want of good medicines in hospitals, and the local schools are abolished for want of aid. The municipal law has been framed in a liberal spirit. Interpretations injurious to people should not be put upon it.

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

25. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani*, of the 11th December, writing from Banagram, Sahajadpore, in Pubna, complains that the local zemindars are taking advantage of the ignorance of their ryots to make a new survey of their lands and to enhance their rents. Many have agreed to pay this enhanced rent. Others are likely to create agrarian disturbances. The ryots of a large number of villages have made a combination because they object to the enhancement of rent, and they demand that receipts in cheque form be granted them regularly.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 11th, 1886.

26. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 13th December, says that the collection of the road and public works cesses is oppression from beginning to end. The authorities at first imposed the road cess instead of the income tax. While formerly the income-tax was collected from the rich, the road cess have been always collected from poor men. Government has done injustice by shifting the burden from the rich to the poor. Again, when delay took place in the payment of the road cess on account of the late distribution of papers, thousands of people were undeservedly punished. The road cess has now been assessed upon poor Brahmins. Brahmottar lands are the only means of subsistence of many widows and orphans. Many of these widows and orphans will be ruined if they have to pay the road and public works cesses. Government has imposed the road and public works cesses upon each bigha of land in their possession. The brahmottar lands are regarded as of no value. The brahmottar lands of a Brahmin are not also compact pieces of land, but are situated in different places. For this reason the owners cannot exercise control over their tenants. The Brahmins are also satisfied with what rents they receive from their lands. Thus the amount of cess imposed upon these lands is unduly high. Government has issued notices for the payment of the road cess this year, and it has charged the amount of road cess with interest for the last three years. The interest charged is high, namely, $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This will ruin many Brahmins. Even those who are paying the cess to the zemindar have been asked to pay the cess direct to Government. Consequently they have to pay the cess twice for the same land. Many have lands in two districts. They have submitted the same papers to the Collectors of the two districts, and each has assessed the cess upon the whole amount of their land. It is not possible for the Brahmins, who are very poor, to get this injustice remedied. Government has promised not to interfere with the religion and the manners and customs of the people of this country. Consequently Government should try to prevent oppression upon the priests of Hindus and Mussalmans. If Government oppresses the priests of Hindus and Mussalmans, it will violate its promise.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Dec. 13th, 1886.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

27. A correspondent of the *Dainik*, of the 13th December, complains that very few trains touch Aranghatta, a station on the Eastern Bengal Railway, during

DAINIK,
Dec. 13th, 1886.

the day, though many trains touch the station at night. The writer prays that the Darjeeling mails, up and down, may stop there at least for two minutes.

CHARU VARTA,
Dec. 13th, 1886.

28. The *Cháruvartá*, of the 13th December, says that the Dacca-Mymensingh line has not become a paying concern. The writer thinks that unless a railway be constructed from Aricha, opposite Goalundo, to Dacca, and unless the Mymensingh line be extended northwards, it will never be paying. The trade of Eastern Bengal is carried on through three different channels, all converging to Goalundo. The present line has secured only partially the traffic of one of these channels. This is the reason why the goods traffic of the line is not brisk. Government should try to construct a line from Aricha to Dacca.

Dacca-Mymensingh Railway.

(h)—General.

PARIDARSHAK,
Nov. 27th, 1886.

29. The *Paridarshak*, of the 27th November, agrees with the author of the *Star in the East* in maintaining that a representative system of government should be introduced into India, and that the distinction of race and colour should be entirely done away with.

The Star in the East.

PARIDARSHAK.

30. A correspondent of the same paper says that great dissatisfaction has been caused by the injustice that has been done in the matter of assessing the income-tax in the Moulvi Bazar subdivision. All classes of people have been assessed. In the subdivisions of North Sylhet, Karimgunge, Shunamgunge, and Habigunge less money has been raised than in Moulvie Bazar. But the people of Moulvi Bazar are by no means richer than those of other subdivisions.

Assessment of the income-tax in Moulvi-Bazar.

BHARATBASÍ,
Dec. 4th, 1886.

31. The *Bháratbásí*, of the 4th December, is grieved that the Viceroy is unnecessarily sorry at the suspicion expressed by native papers with regard to the motives of Government in appointing the Civil Service Commission. Native papers only expressed the views which occurred to them on reading his resolution appointing the Civil Service Commission. Native papers said that no good had been derived from any of the Commissions that had been hitherto appointed. No one cares for the Statutory Civil Service. The writer only wants that the Civil Service examination should be held both in England and India. This demand is not unreasonable. The reduction of the standard of age for the Civil Service examination has produced a deep impression in the mind of natives that the object of that measure was to exclude natives from the Civil Service. That this belief is not groundless will be evident from Lord Salisbury's despatch to Lord Lytton. The writer cannot believe that Lord Dufferin has no knowledge of that despatch. If he has read Lord Lytton's despatch, signed by well-wishers of natives like Sir Rivers Thompson and Sir John Strachey, he may say whether the English Government has ever had recourse to "base, mean, and abominable tricks," in order to exclude natives from the Civil Service. The writer hopes that Lord Dufferin will never like Lord Lytton bring eternal disgrace upon the Government of India by a base act. Lord Dufferin has not declared what decision he has arrived at regarding the appointment of natives to the Civil Service in consultation with the Secretary of State. But from an article in the *Times*, and from an article written or approved of by the officials, the writer concludes that some posts have been reserved for Englishmen. It appears from the

Lord Dufferin and the Civil Service Commission.

Viceroy's remarks that he has appointed the Civil Service Commission for the benefit of natives. The writer believes Lord Dufferin.

32. The same paper is sorry to learn that Sir Charles Aitchison is very ill. Many fear that he will not be able to sit as Chairman of the Civil Service Commission. This is a very unfortunate circumstance for natives. The writer will be glad if Sir Charles Bernard is appointed Chairman of the Commission in the case of Sir Charles Aitchison's inability to act as such.

The Chairmanship of the Civil Service Commission.

BHARAT BARI,
Dec. 4th, 1886.

33. The *Silchar*, of the 6th December, says that the *Sanjivani* has exaggerated the sufferings of the coolies in the tea-gardens. The coolies are not so miserable as they are stated to be by that paper. They are lodged in neat houses, and receive proper medicines when they become sick. These rules are of course deviated from in some cases, but those cases are very rare. The tea-planters cannot ill-treat the coolies. They are never forced to work when attacked with disease, for the planters lose Rs. 80 or Rs. 90 by the death of each coolie. The coolies often teach severe lessons to the planters if these try to get large quantity of work done on small wages. The coolies are now able to wear gold and silver ornaments with what they earn in the gardens. The condition of the coolies of some of the gardens is of course bad. This is the case when the managers of the gardens embezzle the money of their employers, but such managers of gardens cannot stay long.

Coolie life in tea-gardens.

SILCHAR,
Dec. 6th, 1886.

The Tea companies have now been able to know the good effect of kindly treating the coolies, and the Directors often come to the gardens to see how the coolies are being treated. The coolies get rest one day in the week, and they spend this day in cultivating lands for their own benefit, and thus make a large income. A large number of coolies coming from the same part of the country remain in the gardens, and thus they are able to celebrate their national festivities. Like zemindars, the managers of the gardens settle all quarrels between the coolies. Sudden deaths of the coolies cause surprise to outsiders who do not know what sort of men these coolies are. They are wicked, inactive, and idle to the utmost degree. Many of them try to shirk work. How can a man allow a servant, for whom he has spent Rs. 80 to 90, to pass his time idly?

34. The *Garib*, of the 8th December, says that though Mahomedan rulers followed a different religion from Hindus, they were not foreigners. The people at that time had more independence than at present. There were independent mundals and punchayets in each village. There was no such nominal self-government. The relation between the rulers and the ruled was not so unsatisfactory. There was not a different law for the conquerors. The rupture of the spleen of the natives did not take place so easily. Nunda Kumar was hanged for being charged with forgery. Gibbons has been released. Such impartiality was not shown by Mahomedan rulers. Except as regards religion, there was no distinction shown between Hindus and Mahomedans. But at present, besides distinction based on religious grounds, there is also distinction made on the ground of difference of race and colour.

The English Government.

GARIB,
Dec. 8th, 1886.

35. The *Bhārat Mitra*, of the 9th December, referring to the statement of the Viceroy that natives find fault with Government without understanding its measures, says that it is natural that people should misunderstand Government when it does not let them know its objects. The people have an impression that Englishmen are dividing the wealth of India among themselves.

Indians and the measures of Government.

BHARAT MITRA,
Dec. 9th, 1886.

SULABHA SAMACHAR
& KUSHDAHA,
Dec. 10th, 1886.

36. The *Sulabha Samachar and Kushdaha*, of the 10th December, says that recruiters induce the coolies to come to the gardens by various misrepresentations. The system of inspection, which has been established in this matter, is not satisfactorily carried out. Women are duped with the hope of being taken to their relation's house and thus brought to Assam. They are taught to answer in the affirmative when any European asks them anything : thus agreement is taken from them by practising deception. These recruiters are so very cunning that when any one gets entangled in their net it is impossible for him to get out. If the inspecting business were done satisfactorily, many coolies, who are victims of deception and misrepresentation, could escape.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 11th, 1886.

37. The *Sanjivani*, of the 11th December, says that the *Civil and Military Gazette* urges the necessity for gagging the Vernacular Press for its incessant attacks on Lord Dufferin and the Government of India. But what is the fault of these newspapers? The Anglo-Indians show their loyalty by words, while natives are loyal at heart. Natives point out the faults of Government with a view to ensure the permanence of British dominion in India. Anglo-Indians are rulers of India. They can do just as they please for a short time by putting restrictions on the native press. But they should remember that retribution overtakes despotic rulers. Anglo-Indians will be ruined, but the natives will live and try to preserve a well-governed empire.

SANJIVANI.

38. The same paper says that an inference is often drawn from the yearly increase of Indian commerce that, India is prospering. The export trade is growing more and more extensive, but the native subjects of England do not profit by this extension. If the value of the exports went to the pockets of the natives of India, they would receive Rs. 4 each, the population being estimated at 20 crores. But the writer shows, by giving an analysis of the export trade, that they get one rupee each. Then, again, the carrying trade does not belong to the natives. India sends out really useful articles, but what does she get in return? Manufactured articles and wines. India sends out cotton, and gets back piece-goods. She sends out hides and gets shoes in return. The natives are so foolish that they purchase from England even those things which they can produce at home. They import wines to the value of Rs. 1,39,84,798. India produces excellent shoes, and yet the degenerate natives delight to purchase shoes of English manufacture. The day is distant when the natives will come to their senses and learn to preserve their wealth.

SANJIVANI.

39. The same paper says that the public knows very little about those coolies who are sent to Africa, America, and the islands in the Pacific. The writer would be delighted if he were satisfied that poor men go to these distant countries to improve their condition, but he is extremely sorry to notice that men are induced to emigrate by various artifices. A poor Brahmin who came to Calcutta in quest of employment fell a prey to one of the coolie agents. But fortunately he received better advice before his registration. The writer has grave doubts whether men can be induced to go so far without the employment of artifices. Many registered coolies are known to make bitter lamentations when they are taken on board the ship, and when for the first time they come to realize the miseries of their position. It is a matter of congratulation that the miserable condition of the coolies is being widely talked of in the mofussil. The work of the recruiter is becoming more and more difficult every day. The hard

lot of the coolies in the countries where they emigrate has evoked strong sympathy from their inhabitants, and in many places they are stopping immigration altogether. The Lieutenant-Governor has said that under the rules now issued the recruiters have very little chance of cajoling men to become coolies. The writer is not at all surprised at this. His Honour sees everything through the eyes of his officers, and therefore sees nothing but the bright side of the picture. The average savings of coolies who come back from distant countries are published. The writer would be glad if the average savings of the coolies returned from Assam were published likewise.

40. The *Bangabasi*, of the 11th December, says that whenever Viceroys and Governors set out on mofussil tours

BANGABASI,
Dec. 11th, 1886.

The Viceroy's tour.

people are anxious to please them with adulations. A conquered people cannot venture to mention the faults of their rulers in their presence. Even Sir Rivers Thompson, who has incurred so much displeasure of the people, receives flattering compliments in the mofussil. But this is not good. Those who are anxious to know the real condition of the people will never consider this policy of flattery to be good; but they cannot openly dissuade the flatterers from this course. It seems that Lord Dufferin has resolved to adopt a different policy in this matter. In reply to the flattering address presented to him by the inhabitants and rate-payers of Bangalore, His Lordship said that he knew that he would be unpopular with the rate-payers because he had imposed the income tax, but he saw that the people were ready to make any sacrifice for the good of the State. Those who are in the habit of flattering the rulers should try to understand the true import of Lord Dufferin's remark.

41. The same paper is glad to hear that Lord Dufferin has asked

BANGABASI.

Gratis distribution of Government Gazettes to the editors of native papers.

for a list of native papers to the editors of which the *India Gazette* may be given without payment. At present there is no means whereby people can make themselves acquainted with the laws and resolutions of Government. The writer says that, along with the English *Gazette* a copy of the Bengali *Gazette* should also be given. All circulars and resolutions are not given in the Bengali *Gazette*. Besides this, the translations of laws published in the Bengali *Gazette* cannot be understood in many places without comparing them with the original. Otherwise the Bengali *Gazette* would have sufficed.

42. The same paper says that Government is trying to interfere with the management of the temple of Jaggarnath.

BANGABASI.

The temple of Jaggarnath.

This is certainly a mistake on the part of Government. The writer requests Government to consider the matter well, and not to wound the feelings of the Hindu community by interfering with their religion.

43. In noticing the proposal made by the *Englishman* newspaper of keeping an efficient recruiting establishment on the Nepal frontier for the purpose

DAINIK,
Dec. 12th, 1886.

Recruiting Goorkha soldiers.

of getting Goorkha recruits for the Indian army, the *Dainik*, of the 12th December, says that the recruiting of Goorkha soldiers will resemble the recruiting of coolies. But the Goorkhas are neither so stupid nor so weak as the coolies. The location of such an establishment on the frontier is likely to bring about a quarrel with Nepal.

44. The *Navavibhakar Sadharani*, of the 13th December, says that the Civilian system should be somewhat altered; otherwise what is the good of

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
Dec. 13th, 1886.

Reduction of the number of Civilians.

appointing the Civil Service Commission? The *Pioneer* has said that the questions prepared by the Civil Service Commission will be sent to the editors of newspapers. The writer cannot say whether those questions will be sent to native papers, which are always reproved by Government.

The writer recommends to the Commission, as well as to the Home Government and the Government of India, that the number of Civilians should be reduced. There is no hope of the thorough removal of the evil by the abolition of the Civil Service ; nor does the writer expect that arrangements will be made for the reduction of the salaries of the Civilians. Neither Government nor Anglo-Indians are opposed to the reduction of their number. Anglo-Indians also profess that they are not opposed to the reduction of their number. It is necessary that a number of Civilians should be kept in subordinate posts, so that they may be trained to perform the duties of higher posts. The *Englishman* thinks that 35 Civilians should be kept in subordinate posts ; but the writer thinks that a smaller number of Civilians will be sufficient for the purpose. From the average of the last 10 years it appears that only two vacancies occur in the Civil Service annually by death or retirement ; but on an average 30 new Civilians are now annually employed in India. There is no necessity for keeping Civilians in subordinate posts to act for Civilians holding higher posts who may take leave. The writer agrees with the *Englishman* in thinking that competent Deputy Magistrates may be appointed to officiate for Civilians in the Executive line. A certain number of English District Judges will now have to be kept ; but the *Englishman* has admitted that the number of native Judges, like Baboo Brojendra Kumar Seal, should be increased. No Anglo-Indian will refuse to be tried before a native Judge like Baboo Brojendra Kumar Seal. In the instances in which Anglo-Indians refuse to be tried before native Judges it is seen that they are not respectable men, and that they raise the objection simply for causing failure of justice. The *Englishman*, which denied judicial ability to natives at the time of the Ilbert Bill agitation, is now praising their judicial ability. The *Englishman* will not probably be able to deny that 23 Civilians are not necessary for acting as Judges in Bengal. The writer thinks that 10 Civilian Judges will be sufficient. When able native officers can be appointed to officiate for Civilians in subordinate posts, and when the latter may be appointed to officiate for Civilians in higher posts, 15 Civilians in subordinate posts will do for the purpose of the filling up of vacancies that may occur in the higher posts in the Civil Service. The *Englishman* has admitted that the number of Civilian Judges may be reduced by 13, and that the number of Civilians in subordinate posts may be reduced by 20. The *Englishman* recommends that the number of Civilians should be reduced by 50, but the writer thinks that the number may be reduced by 83. The number of Civilian District Magistrates may also be reduced. The statement of those who say that no respectable Englishman will consent to serve under natives is not true. The writer does not think that the politeness of the English nation has sunk so low. When the *Englishman* is ready to allow able Deputy Magistrates to officiate as District Magistrates, it can have no objection to their permanent appointment as District Magistrates. Thus, on the whole, the number of Civilians in Bengal, which amounts to 250, may be reduced by 100. As the number is reduced, a smaller number of new Civilians should be employed. The number of Civilians in every Province in India should be reduced in this proportion. If this is done, the whole number of Civilians in Bengal, which amounts to 950, may be reduced by 450. This arrangement will, according to the calculation of the *Englishman*, effect an immediate saving of 6 lakhs and 13 thousand, and a future saving of 20 lakhs and 25 thousand. The arrangement will not also impede the public business. The Civilians can have no objection to a course which has been recommended by the *Englishman*. The English Government should not object to such a course. This

arrangement will also provide for 450 natives. By this arrangement Government will, in some measure, atone for the sin which it has been committing by violating its promises. The writer firmly believes that the Civil Service Commission will agree to such a course. So long as the salaries of the Civilians are not reduced, and full facilities are not afforded for the appointment of natives to high posts, natives may be partially satisfied by such a measure. This arrangement will also afford facilities for the training of natives for higher posts. If Government does not make this arrangement, natives will think that it is not sincere, and they will become more alarmed and dissatisfied.

45. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 13th December, says that according to the Anglo-Indian papers the Viceroy has lowered his dignity by taking any notice of the remarks of those natives

Expression of his feelings by Lord Dufferin.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Dec. 13th, 1886.

who are agitating about the Civil Service Commission. It is quite natural that those who consider Russia to be of no importance, though the English Government is being at every step overreached by her in diplomacy; who consider France to be of no importance; and those who have considered Prince Bismarck to be of no importance since he took the side of Russia in the matter of Bulgaria, should consider natives to be of no importance. Sir Richard Temple and Lord Ripon governed India for the benefit of Indians. Lord Dufferin is not inferior in point of statesmanship to either of those rulers. Consequently Lord Dufferin knows that he has not come to India for the benefit of Anglo-Indians. Lord Dufferin has surely understood since his arrival in India that the connection of Anglo-Indians with India is purely selfish. They look to their own interests alone, and not to those of the British Empire. Lord Dufferin has understood this from the attitude of Anglo-Indians with regard to the Burmese war and to the income tax. Lord Dufferin knows that he was obliged to annex Burmah, for the occupation of which he is about to lose his reputation, in the interests of Anglo-Indians. He has also seen that the majority of them have become displeased with him since the imposition of the income tax. He has also seen that Lord Lytton, who governed India without having regard to the interests of Indians, not only became discredited in India, but also in England. Again, though Anglo-Indians tried hard to discredit Lord Ripon, he has obtained credit in England. Lord Dufferin has come to India, not for the benefit of Anglo-Indians, but for the benefit of Indians and of the British Empire. How can he then be guided by the opinion of the *Pioneer* and the *Civil and Military Gazette*? Lord Dufferin has not degraded himself, but has won the reverence of the people by his expression of regret at the suspicion entertained by natives about the motives of Government in appointing the Civil Service Commission. This has rather shamed than encouraged those who were agitating against the Civil Service Commission. The *Pioneer* has expressed contempt for native papers; but the English are now being tormented by petty foes. The Afghans, the Soudanese, and the Burmese, whom the English looked down upon, have caused them great trouble. The policy of the English Government is now determined by the Irish members of Parliament, whose number is very small, and who are looked down by the English. Those Englishmen who cannot maintain themselves in England come to India. These men seek to bring discredit upon the English character, and to oppress Indians, and to destroy their loyalty. Lord Dufferin has appointed the Public Service Commission in order to make the foundations of British rule in this country stronger, and to remove the discontent of Indians, due to the partiality which is shown at present in the matter of appointment to the Public Service. But shortsighted natives tried to oppose the Commission. Lord

Dufferin saw that, if their opinion was slighted, the agitation would become stronger. Lord Dufferin also understood that the English Government had not dealt honestly by natives, and that the suspicion of natives would take deep root in their minds. For this reason he expressed his feelings on the subject. The only object of the *Civil and Military Gazette* is to injure natives. By freely expressing his feelings Lord Dufferin has disarmed the opposition of natives, which would have frustrated his schemes. The writer hopes that Lord Dufferin has seen from this by what policy natives can be attached to the authorities. Lord Ripon established unbounded influence over natives by freely expressing his feelings. Lord Dufferin may become popular by following such a policy.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Dec. 13th, 1886.

46. The same paper says that according to the *Englishman* no civilian is capable of such offences as have been committed by Jagabandhu Khan. But everybody knows how the Eurasian class sprung up. Many perhaps know what offence was committed by a high English official in Calcutta itself when Lord Lytton was Viceroy. Anglo-Indians have become far better than formerly. The *Englishman* probably knows how indigo-planters established their influence over officials. It also probably knows by what means many Anglo-Indians established influence over, and obtained preferments from, a distinguished official. It has not been proved that Jagabandhu Khan has committed outrage upon any woman. The *Englishman* should judge of the morality of officials by setting out on a mofussil tour. When English officials obtained small salaries, many of them accepted bribes. Even now many Englishmen have children by native females belonging to the lowest classes. Jagabandhu Khan belongs to a very low caste. Government confers such large powers upon Magistrates as should not be conferred upon weak mortals. It is impossible for a low-caste man like Jagabandhu Khan not to abuse those powers. The writer has been obliged to make the above unfavourable remarks upon the morality of Anglo-Indians by the attack upon natives made by the *Englishman*.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

47. The same paper says that it does not appear from the questions framed by the Civil Service Commission that it is the object of Lord Dufferin to deceive natives. If Lord Dufferin had such an object, he would not express sorrow at Poona at the suspicion entertained by natives. If the Public Service Commission collects honest answers to the questions framed by it, and if it considers the question in an impartial spirit, natives will be benefited rather than otherwise. The Civil Service Commission may injure the interests of Anglo-Indians. Consequently it is not to be expected that they will forget their interests and give honest answers to the questions framed by the Commission. Those Indians also who have been to England and have left native society will not give an honest answer when asked the question whether the Civil Service examination should be held in India, because it is their interest to increase the number of persons in their community. Those who object to the lowering of salaries of posts for natives do not consider that the more the salaries of posts are diminished, the greater will be the facilities afforded for the admission of natives into the public service. If the salaries of posts are reduced, Englishmen will not come in large numbers to India. They also forget that the high salaries of posts are injurious to natives, as in fact they have to pay those salaries. The English Government has sown disunion among the people of the different parts of India. Consequently these people may out of mutual jealousy give such answer to questions as may injure the country.

48. The same paper, referring to the statement of the Orissa People's Association that if there had been mismanagement in the conduct of the worship of the idol Jagarnath it would have come to its notice, says that, though Government has often made proposals for the taking of the management of temples out of the hands of their managers, it has not thought proper to carry those proposals into effect. Sir Rivers Thompson is a bigoted Christian. Consequently he may naturally hate the followers of other religions. But Sir Rivers should remember that he should not do that, as Lieutenant-Governor, which he could have done as a private individual. The temple of Jagarnath is a place of pilgrimage to all sects of Hindus. Interference with its management will wound the feelings of every Hindu.

ANANDA BASAR
PATRIKA,
Dec. 13th, 1886.

49. The *Dainik*, of the 13th December, approves of the proposal made by one Badan Chandra Set for the abolition of Government printing offices. This will not only result in a large saving, but will also encourage private enterprise. Lord Ripon gave a portion of the printing work to private companies. But the only printer that profits under that arrangement is Mr. Ellis, though there are many printing establishments which can successfully compete with him. The writer hopes that the Finance Committee will take Baboo Badan Chandra Set's proposal into consideration.

DAINIK,
Dec. 13th, 1886.

50. In noticing the proposal made by the *Indian Mirror* that a Hindu gentleman should be appointed to superintend the process of refining salt at Liverpool, and to watch whether any bones are used for the purpose, the same paper says that a Hindu cannot live at Liverpool without losing his caste, and it is not possible that *mlechchhas* will pay proper attention to the purity, from a Hindu point of view, of any article. The writer thinks that the use of Liverpool salt should be altogether given up.

DAINIK.

51. Referring to the questions circulated by the Public Service Commission, the *Samvad Prabhakar*, of the 13th December, asks whether those questions have been framed by the Government of India, or by the President of the Commission, or by its Secretary. It may be that the questions were sent for the consideration of the members of the Commission; but have they been modified and altered according to their suggestions?

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,
Dec. 13th, 1886.

The questions have been worded in such a manner, and so many questions have been asked on the same point, that they look like the questions set by a barrister-at-law in the course of a severe cross-examination. No man will be able to answer all these questions without contradicting himself. The writer urges that simpler questions should be framed by the members of the Commission for the examination of witnesses.

52. In reviewing the pamphlet entitled *The Star in the East*, the *Dacca Gazette*, of the 13th December, says that Indians sympathise with every letter of the pamphlet.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Dec. 13th, 1886.

53. Referring to the speech of Lord Dufferin at Madura, in which His Lordship complained of the inability of Government to cope successfully with the devastating famines in India, the *Dainik*, of the 14th December, says that Government is quite prepared to admit the terrible nature and frequency of Indian famines at all times except at the time when they are raging. In speeches, in creating funds for famine relief, and at the time of the imposition of a new tax, Government expatiates on the subject of famines

DAINIK,
Dec. 14th, 1886.

in India; but if any one speaks of famine when it is raging, Government denounces him at once as a thief, a liar, and a rebel worthy of condign punishment.

DAINIK,
Dec. 14th, 1886.

54. The same paper says that Thakurdas Mitra of Bhowanipore has some landed property and some money-lending business too. He was assessed both at Calcutta and in the 24-Pergunnahs. He applied to the Magistrate of the 24-Pergunnahs for permission to pay his tax at the local treasury, and to get his name removed from the list of assesseees in Calcutta. His application was granted. Shortly afterwards a warrant was issued against him from the Calcutta Collectorate. Thakurdas Baboo pleaded that he had paid his tax at Alipore, and prayed that he should be exempted from payment at Calcutta. He was told in reply that no exemption could be granted without enquiry, and no enquiry instituted unless he had previously paid the warrant fees. The writer does not understand why the assessee should be made liable to pay these fees.

Seventy-two of the *pandas* of the shrine of Baidyanath have been served with notices for the payment of the income-tax. Proper enquiry as to the incomes of the men has not been made, and yet they have been assessed. They are clamorous for an enquiry.

Instances can be multiplied. There is no likelihood of the grievancees of the assesseees being removed. The merchant rulers of India are very hard in the matter of realising their dues. The law of limitation does not apply in the case where Government is the creditor.

When the proposal for imposing the income-tax was first made, the native members of the Council expressed their fear that great oppression would be practised in the assessment of the tax. They were told in reply that stringent measures would be adopted to prevent oppression. Now that the Income Tax Bill has passed, Government is quite indifferent to the matter. It is a matter of great regret that Government does not care for the love and esteem of the people, that it does not try to remove their grievances, and hear the salutary advice of those who are its real friends.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

SURABHI & PATAKA,
Dec. 9th, 1886.

55. The *Surabhi* and *Patākā*, of the 9th December, bring to the notice of Government the way in which the powerful zemindars are turning the Tenancy Act into an engine of oppression. By the provision that the nature of the tenure as well as the amount of rent should be written in the rent receipt, the collection of illegal cesses may be prevented, and the amount of land occupied by the ryot may be fixed. This printed form of rent receipt might also make it more difficult for zemindars to deny the genuineness of the receipts. But zemindars are charging a new cess, called cheque *salami*, for granting these printed receipts. Some zemindars in Bankoora and Burdwan have charged four to five annas in the rupee for this. One pice is also charged as the cost of the paper and printing of the receipt. Both these charges are unjust. Rent receipts, different in form from that fixed by the Act, are being given in a mouzah in Bishunpore, in the Bankoora district. The entries of "according to the statement of the ryot" and "tenure" are absent from the receipt. In many cases zemindars distrain the standing crops of their ryots without the order of law courts. For this reason some Magistrates have made arrangements for the prevention of any breach of the peace at the time of the cutting of the crops. But the zemindars easily corrupt police

officers who get small salaries. Still *mathats* and exorbitant rates of interest are charged. Unduly high *salamis* are charged when ryots want to have their leases cancelled. If the Magistrates abandon their formidable attitude, and mix with the zemindars and ryots, Government may learn the condition of the people, and may thus be able to frame beneficial laws.

56. The *Navavibhakar Sadharoni*, of the 13th December, says that it has continually shown that Act XIII of 1859 cannot apply to coolies in planta-

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
Dec. 13th, 1886.

tions. This Act was framed for keeping the labourers in the Presidency towns in check. But the labourers in the Presidency towns are now bound by the Contract Act. Act XIII of 1859 now applies only to the coolies, for whom it was not intended. Referring to the statement of the Chief Commissioner of Assam in his annual report that Act XIII of 1859 will either be repealed, or its application to coolies will have to be stopped, the writer says that he also thinks that the Act should no longer be retained. The Coolie Emigration Act of 1882, at the same time that it lays various obligations upon coolies, lays some obligations upon the planters too. But Act XIII of 1859 lays obligations only upon coolies. For this reason the writer has always recommended that the application of Act XIII of 1859 to coolies should be stopped. If that Act is repealed the planters will be obliged to fall back upon the Act of 1882, because they want to place some check upon coolies by making them liable to criminal punishment. The planters do not wish to rely simply upon civil law, for it will only compel coolies to refund the advance made to them, or at most to give some compensation. But the enemies of planters are planters. A planter fears that if he can avail himself only of civil law, another planter will induce his men to enter his service and give compensation for them. Neither the writer nor the planters are in favour of free emigration. The writer wants that obligations should be imposed upon the planters. The planters want that obligations should be imposed upon the coolies. Consequently a coolie law is necessary. The writer wants that, as easy means should be devised for making the coolies fulfil the obligations imposed upon them, easy means should also be devised for making the planters fulfil the obligations imposed upon them. The writer will on no account consent to the increase of the oppression of coolies. Every respectable man must be opposed to Act XIII of 1859. The Act is leading to great oppression. The Act of 1882 should be applied to coolies with some amendments.

57. The *Gramvasi*, of the 15th December, says that section 121 of the Tenancy Act is a very pernicious section. As the crops failed last year, the ryots were in arrears of rent, and zemindars are now distraining the crops of this year for the realisation of their arrears; and this has caused great inconvenience to the ryots. This Act also provides that no ryots will be able to make any objection to the claims made by the zemindars unless they deposit in court the whole sum claimed. The zemindars are making demands for an exaggerated amount, and claiming assistance from the courts for attaching the holdings of the ryots. The writer hopes that the munsifs will carefully enquire into the justice of the applicants' claims before granting their applications.

GRAMVASI,
Dec. 15th, 1886.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

58. The *Bangabasi*, of the 11th December, is glad to learn that the Viceroy has given assurance to the Rajah of Mysore that he will not be liable to pay increased tribute for the next ten years. Lord Dufferin has also expressed

BANGABASI,
Dec. 11th, 1886.

The Viceroy at Bangalore.

his political views in the course of his speech at Bangalore. His Lordship is of opinion that to reduce the expenditure of Government is not a good policy. It stands in the way of improvement, and also of efficient administration of the country. Such a course is justifiable only in times of emergency, when the rulers are intent on averting present danger rather than on effecting improvements in the country. The writer asks whether the Finance Committee has been appointed for the purpose indicated by Lord Dufferin, or to put a stop to the useless expenditure of Government. Great danger is to be apprehended if the Committee acts in pursuance of the policy expressed by His Lordship.

SOM PRAKASH,
Dec. 13th, 1886

59. The *Som Prakāśh*, of the 13th December, says that Colonel Talbot is trying to convert the Rajah of Bikanir into a mere puppet. Major Wylie, who is the Political Agent of the small State of Jhalawar, opposes the Rajah at every step. It has become necessary to define the powers of the Political Agents. The Political Agents have now begun to act against the principle on which Government formerly use to deal with natives. Now native princes do not possess the independence of common men. It is not probable that men who have never possessed power or wealth in England should be able to make good use of power and wealth in India. How can good administration be expected in native states when those whose fathers never kept servants have absolute authority over hundreds of thousands of people and over native princes. The writer has always requested Government to respect the rights of native princes, and to appoint proper men as Political Agents. The Public Service Commission should consider the question.

The Political Agents.

DAINIK,
Dec. 13th 1886.

60. The *Dainik*, of the 13th December, say that had Lord Dufferin tried to realise the condition of the native princes he would never have drawn such a bright picture of their condition in the course of his speech at Hyderabad. They are sovereign princes indeed. They have territories, armies, revenue, and everything, and yet they are not sovereigns, and they are not happy. They live with the sword of Damocles always hanging over their heads. The Residents are the real rulers of the States. Though appointed to watch the proceedings of the native princes, they really rule them. The princes live in constant dread of these Residents. A respectable resident at Jodhpore asked the other day a correspondent of a newspaper : " Are these Political Agents greater than our own sovereign rulers ? " There is no doubt, says the writer, that such a question can with propriety be asked by the subjects of any of the native states. Whenever the writer thinks of these states, the history of Baroda, of Gwalior, and of Bikanir, presents itself before his mental vision in all its grim reality.

The native states of India.

BANGABASI,
Dec. 11th, 1886.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND THE CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

61. The *Bangabási*, of the 11th December, says that famine has made its appearance in the Chhatrisgar Division, Central India. Chhatrisgar is one of the most fertile provinces in India. Crops formerly grew with so much abundance in this place that the cultivators could not find time to gather them. Those who hold the opinion that wealth increases in proportion to the increase of importation, should see the condition of Chhatrisgar. This is an effect of the free-trade policy. Because the country is becoming civilized day by day, famine is occurring repeatedly.

Famine in Chhatrisgar.

DAINIK,
Dec. 14th, 1886.

62. A correspondent of the *Dainik*, of the 12th December, says that cholera is raging fearfully at Kishnagar.

Cholera at Kishnagar.

63. A correspondent of the same paper says that 40 to 50 persons have died of cholera at Bhaddeshwar in the course of a fortnight. There are some foul tanks which sadly require dredging.

DAINIK,
Dec. 12th, 1886.

64. A correspondent of the *Dainik*, of the 14th December, says that for the last seven days cholera has been raging fearfully at Balgana in Burdwan. The villagers are not resorting to homœopathic treatment, but are worshipping the goddess Kali as the only remedy.

DAINIK,
Dec. 14th, 1886.

URIYA PAPERS.

65. The *Utkal Dipikà* is of opinion that the Stamp Act should not by any means be introduced into the Tributary Mehals, where the people have been accustomed to a different sort of government. Aborigines do not like the idea of purchasing justice by indirect means, such as purchase of stamps, &c.

UTKAL DIPIKA,
Nov. 27th, 1886.

66. Referring to the summary way in which Mr. Boileau, Officiating Magistrate of Rungpore, discharged Ainuddeen who had been accused of giving false evidence, the same paper goes on to observe that such acts on the part of District Magistrates are sure to lower the prestige of courts in the eyes of the public.

UTKAL DIPIKA.

67. The *Sebaka* reproduces at length the speech of the Viceroy at Poona, and sympathises with the resentment of His Excellency at the unjust remarks of some of the native papers regarding the motives of the Indian Government in appointing the Civil Service Commission by making the following observations :—

SEBAKA,
Dec. 1st, 1886.

“After such clear and sensible protest from His Excellency, it is very improper for the Indian Association of Calcutta to demand the publication of the correspondence which has passed between the Government of India and the Secretary of State for India on the subject.”

68. A correspondent of the same paper, named Lokenath Goswami, apprehends that cholera will rage virulently in village Punang, in thana Jagatsingpore, in district Cuttack, and therefore requests the authorities to send a doctor with suitable medicines to that place without delay.

SEBAKA.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYA, M.A.,

Offg. Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 18th December 1886.

